

What is claimed is:

*3b A2*  
1. A ceramic-molding binder, comprising a vinyl alcohol polymer having an ethylene unit content of 2 to 19 mole %, a polymerization degree of 200 to 2,000, a degree of saponification of 80 to 99.99 mole %, and a carboxylic acid and lactone ring content of 0.02 to 0.4 mole %.

2. A ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 1,  
10 wherein the carboxylic acid and lactone ring content in the vinyl alcohol polymer satisfies the following Formula I:

$$-1.94 \times 10^{-5} \times P + 0.044 \leq \text{content} \leq -1.39 \times 10^{-4} \times P + 0.42$$

(I)

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(where the content (in mole %) represents the content of carboxylic acid and lactone rings, and P represents the viscosity average degree of polymerization of the vinyl alcohol polymer).

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3. A ceramic-molding composition, comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 1 or 2 per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

4. A ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 3,  
wherein the ceramic powder comprises a ferrite powder.

5bA3 5. A method for producing a ceramic molding,  
5 comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from  
the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 3 or 4  
to form granules, and molding the granules followed by  
sintering.

10 6. A compression-molding binder for ceramics,  
comprising a vinyl alcohol polymer having an ethylene unit  
content of 2 to 19 mole %, a polymerization degree of 200  
to 2,000, a degree of saponification of 80 to 99.99 mole %,  
and a carboxylic acid and lactone ring content of 0.02 to  
15 0.4 mole %.

7. A compression-molding binder for ceramics  
according to Claim 6, wherein the carboxylic acid and  
lactone ring content in the vinyl alcohol polymer satisfies  
20 the following Formula I:

$$-1.94 \times 10^{-5} \times P + 0.044 \leq \text{content} \leq -1.39 \times 10^{-4} \times P + 0.42 \quad (\text{I})$$

25 (where the content (in mole %) represents the content of  
carboxylic acid and lactone rings, and P represents the

viscosity average degree of polymerization of the vinyl alcohol polymer).

*sbA4* 8. A ceramic-compression-molding composition,  
5 comprising 0.1 to 20 weight parts of the ceramic-molding binder according to Claim 6 or 7 per 100 weight parts of ceramic powder.

9. A ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 8,  
10 wherein the ceramic powder comprises a ferrite powder.

*sbA5* 10. A method for producing a ceramic molding,  
comprising drying an aqueous kneaded material obtained from  
the ceramic-molding composition according to Claim 8 or 9  
15 to form granules, and molding the granules followed by  
sintering.

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